

SITUATION REPORT NO. 01
INCIDENT NO. 2001- 087
DATE: August 8, 2001 TIME: 2:30 p.m.

TO: Governor John Hoeven
State Capitol
Bismarck, N.D. 58505

1. NATURE OF DISASTER: Severe summer storm with high winds.
2. DEATHS AND INJURIES: No deaths or injuries have been reported at this time.
3. DAMAGES: High winds ranging from 60 to 75 miles per hour (mph) ripped into the city of Hillsboro at 1:15 a.m. August 8, causing severe damage. An unofficial report indicated wind velocities up to 110 mph southeast of Hillsboro. Approximately 2,400 hundred trees were damaged or destroyed, 600 of which were located on public property and 1,800 on private property. Residents are without power after an estimated 23 miles of power lines within the city were downed by wind and falling trees. Lines sustained heavy damage, and several poles were broken. When poles fell, transformers were cracked and spilled approximately 80 gallons of oil. Several residential and commercial roofs were destroyed or damaged. The Traill County Courthouse and the Traill County Shop sustained roof and water damage. Winds knocked down the county's Local Government Radio tower, as well a cellular phone company's tower.

In Griggs County, baseball-sized hail fell in Hannaford at 12:15 a.m. In Steele County, one-inch hail was reported in Finley at 12:25 a.m.

4. RESOURCES:
LOCAL: Local agencies include: aging services offices, public works departments, law enforcement agencies, communications centers, emergency management offices, fire and rescue, ambulance services, city and county commissions and administrative offices.
STATE: N.D. National Guard, State Radio Communications, N.D. Department of Human Services, the N.D. Highway Patrol, N.D. Department of Transportation and N.D. Division of Emergency Management are providing assistance.
FEDERAL: The National Weather Service (NWS) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) are monitoring conditions.
5. VOLUNTEER ACTION: The Salvation Army and the American Red Cross are providing water and snacks. The American Red Cross provided a noon meal.
The American Red Cross Disaster Operations Center has been alerted to the windstorm damage in Traill County. The MinnKota Chapter in Fargo-Moorhead will provide mass care assistance. The organization's North Dakota Emergency Response Vehicle (ERV) was deployed.
6. MAJOR ACTIONS: Governor John Hoeven today toured the city of Hillsboro and met with local officials. He was accompanied by Insurance Commissioner Jim

Poolman, Adjutant General Michael J. Haugen and representatives of the Governor's Office, N.D. National Guard and N.D. Division of Emergency Management.

The North Dakota National Guard sent 20 soldiers to Hillsboro to assist city and contractor crews with debris removal. National Guard resources include payloaders, trucks, chain saws and other equipment.

The Grand Forks City Fire Department dispatched a rescue truck and four firefighters to assist with debris removal.

N.D. Department of Transportation (DOT) crews are clearing debris from highways and erecting downed signs.

The nursing home has been designated by Hillsboro officials as the primary air-conditioned shelter for protection from the high humidity and heat. The city will use the Traill County Courthouse as a secondary facility.

Although power is out throughout the city of Hillsboro, backup generators are in use at the Traill County Courthouse, hospital and nursing home. Backup power is also maintaining the city's water and sewer services.

At the request of the North Dakota Department of Human Services, Division of Aging Services, the Fargo Commission/Traill County Council on Aging has directed two individuals to visit homebound and elderly residents to assure their safety and assess their needs. Additionally, the council's senior bus has been reserved to take people to shelters.

The Highway Patrol closed N.D. Highway 200 to truck traffic due to low power lines.

The Highway Patrol and the Grand Forks County Sheriff's Office are providing security at checkpoints along U.S. Highway 81 at the north and south city limits and the exit on I-29. Highway Patrol troopers are providing assistance within the area.

The North Dakota State Electrical Board has a representative in Hillsboro assisting the city in its effort to evaluate overhead line damage and the extent of work necessary before safely returning power to the lines.

Officials for the city of Hillsboro and Traill County have issued disaster declarations.

7. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: No additional requests have been received.
8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: No change from previous reports.
9. OTHER: Appropriate state and local emergency operations plans have been implemented.

Situation Reports published by North Dakota Emergency Management are posted on the Division's Internet home page. The address is <http://www.state.nd.us/dem>.

Douglas C. Friez, State Director